

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 4, 2004. Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are the independent claims. Claims 1 and 15 are amended. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the present application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 7 of the Office Action, Claims 8-14 were allowed. In addition, Claims 19-20 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner and formally recognizes the allowable subject matter of Claims 8-14 and 19-20.

Art-Based Rejections

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Okada (USPN 5,757,510).

On page 5 of the Office Action, Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okada (USPN 5,757,510) in view of Nosaki (USPN 6,016,386 A).

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

The Okada Reference

The Okada reference discloses a facsimile apparatus that flexibly determines lines to be used at a sending end and a receiving end. (*See Okada, Col. 1, lines 59-*

65). According to Okada, the apparatus includes a storage means for storing management information, indicating which of a plurality of sending line groups the plurality of sending lines belong to, and delivery management means for determining a sending line group to be used when sending facsimile information to a plurality of facsimile terminals by referring to the management information stored in the storage means. (*See Okada, Col. 2, lines 1-11*).

The Nosaki Reference

The Nosaki reference discloses an image forming system that obtains a printout identical to another printout at a high speed without any image deterioration. (*See Nosaki, Col. 1, lines 50-54*). According to Nosaki, the image forming system includes a digital copying machine control system, a memory copy function, and a secondary memory for storing compressed image data. The image forming system also includes a FAX board for exchanging compressed image data with an external device via a public line, a parallel/serial port for exchanging data with an external device, and a LAN board for exchanging data via a LAN (Local Area Network). (*See Nosaki, Col. 4, lines 5-25*).

The Claims are Patentable over the Cited Reference

The present application is generally directed to facsimile machines that are connectable to various communication networks, such as a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and a Local Area Network (LAN).

As defined by amended independent Claim 1, a facsimile machine connectable to PSTN and other networks includes a delivery condition storage for a plurality of registering delivery conditions to determine to which recipient from a list of recipients facsimile image data should be transferred. The facsimile image data is received from another device over PSTN or other networks. Delivery

information or instructions are carried together with the facsimile image data. The delivery condition storage searches the list of recipients for the recipient and adds the recipient to the list if the recipient is not on the list of recipients. The facsimile machine includes a control unit for determining one or more recipients of the facsimile image data in accordance with one or more delivery conditions that match the delivery information or instructions of the facsimile image data, and for transferring the facsimile image data to the determined one or more recipients.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest the above features of the present invention as defined by amended independent Claim 1. In particular, the applied references do not disclose or suggest, "wherein the delivery condition storage searches the list of recipients for the recipient and adds the recipient to the list if the recipient is not on the list of recipients," as required by amended independent Claim 1.

The applied Okada reference is directed to a facsimile apparatus that flexibly determines transmission lines to be used at a sending end and a receiving end of a PBX (private branch exchange) network. (*See Okada, Col. 1, lines 59-65*). According to Okada, the facsimile apparatus assigns a line group to be used in transmission such that a distributing condition, comprising a sender condition, a receiver condition, or a functional condition, is taken into consideration when assigning a particular line group to be used in transmission via the PBX network. (*See Okada, Col. 3, lines 11-15*). Okada specifically teaches that only one of the distributing conditions (sender condition, receiver condition, or functional condition) are used for the line selection. (*See Okada; Figure 16; Col. 6, lines 19-28*).

In contrast, the present invention teaches a delivery condition storage for registering a plurality of delivery conditions to determine to which recipient from a list of recipients facsimile image data should be transferred or distributed via a

LAN network. (*See Specification, Page 2, lines 21-30*). The present invention further teaches searching the list of recipients for a designated recipient and adds the designated recipient to the list if the designated recipient is not on the list of recipients. (*See Specification; Figures 4 and 5; Page 11, line 12 to Page 13, line 10*). An additional recipient can be registered by inputting an additional delivery condition in the delivery condition storage, which improves operation flexibility of the facsimile machine. (*See Specification, Page 3, lines 5-8*).

The ancillary Nosaki reference does not remedy the deficiencies of the primary Okada reference. In fact, the applied references, alone or in any combination, do not disclose or suggest the above features as required by amended independent Claim 1. Even though Nosaki discloses the use of a LAN network, Nosaki does not teach or suggest, "wherein the delivery condition storage searches the list of recipients for the recipient and adds the recipient to the list if the recipient is not on the list of recipients," as required by amended independent Claim 1.

Since the applied references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the above features as required by amended independent Claim 1, those references cannot be said to anticipate nor render obvious the invention, which is the subject matter of amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 15 is patentable over the applied references for at least the same reasons as those discussed above with reference to amended independent Claim 1.

The remaining Claims 2-7 and 16-20 depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claims 1 and 15 and recite additional features of the invention, which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied

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references. Therefore, the remaining Claims 2-7 and 16-20 are also believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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